

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

We have to thank the proprietor of the Montreal Star for donating the daily edition of that paper to our rooms, also to R. H. R. Munro, Esq., for several volumes added to our Library, this is a most acceptable donation. The shelves of our Library will yet bear the repetition of such favours at the hands of our friends. Who'll be the next?

At the last meeting of the Board 57 new members were passed. It is a pleasure to note that the greater number of these were voluntary applications for admission. The renewals of membership are fully one third in excess of those during same period last year.

The new Instructor of Gymnastics proves to be the right man in the right place. The members are much pleased with him, and we anticipate satisfactory progress. The apparatus is now being put in thorough order, and on the whole the Gymnasium is inviting in appearance, and complete in equipment.

During this coming week we expect all the classes as announced in a previous issue will be in full operation.

FISH BONES.

We ~~have~~ had the pleasure, this evening, of listening to Dr. A. A. Willets, of Philadelphia, in his lecture on Sunshine. Those who heard the lecture agree that our Lecture Committee were wisely directed in their choice, and if our brother Sinclair, of Dayton, Ohio, is always as correct and reliable in advice given to young men visiting him, as he was in his recommendation of Dr. Willets, we can only express the hope that he may long be induced to retain the position of a Y. M. C. A. Secretary. We have scarcely listened to more sound common sense, backed up by Bible truth, and interwoven with amusing yet pointed anecdotes. We cannot refrain from quoting one illustration. The doctor spoke of a certain class of people who look for faults in everything. He said, "I once lectured in a town; during my visit, I stopped at the house of a man whose hobby was finding fault with the Bible. His wife had prepared for dinner a fried shad. As we sat at the table, the old man opened by saying, "You are a preacher I believe?"

"Yes," I replied. "Do you always preach from the Bible?" "Yes." "Dont you find some things there you don't understand?" "Yes." "What do you do then?" "Why I just act as I do now with this bone: I lay it to one side, and go on feeding on the shad. I am not such a fool as to choke myself trying to swallow this bone, nor yet do I run round the room trying to choke others with it." "And yet," added the lecturer, "there are men who search for some bone—some hard passage, and they will choke themselves with it, or run round the country crying out, "See what I have found in the Bible." "The mistakes of Moses! the mistakes of Moses!"

MAKING UP THE TRAIN.

There is a good deal of labor spent about a railway train, of which ordinary travelers know nothing. They come to the station at the appointed time, find the train in readiness, step on board, and are whirled away to their destination. But long before they put in an appearance, men are engaged in "making up the train." The fires are kindled beneath the boilers, steam is got up, carriages are swept and cleaned, and then the train must be made up. An engine is upon one track, a baggage car upon another, a sleeping car upon another, a passenger car yonder; and one by one the engine must take these, backing down to where they are, shackling on to them, and drawing them out to where they *should be*, until at length the train is ready for a start. If the engine driver should bring his engine up in front of the depot and say: "I am here ready to drag the train over the road," he would have no train to draw; but by switching and backing from car to car, he gathers together the scattered carriages and makes up his train.

In the service of God and the life of the Church there is something quite analagous to this. There are persons who are ready for service when everybody else is ready; but they do nothing towards getting ready. But if the work of God is to be carried forward, and the salvation of souls to be sought, somebody must "make up the train;" somebody must begin and do personal work. It is not enough to say: "I am